

DAWN.

The earth awakes with a passionate thrill From the joy of the first winter's dream. The hazy dawn looks on the opposite hill Where the shadows slant the curving stream.

Orides, swallows and bluebirds throng, Each heavenly voice that soars and sings, With a rapturous rush of exulting song, And a tremulous flutter of glancing wings.

So much more than we know is meant, So much more than we ask is given, That our hearts are filled with a sweet content And our pulses stirred with the peace of heaven.

—Penny R. Johnson in Youth's Companion.

CARRIGEEN MOSS.

The sea came leaping and plunging in great white foam flakes along the cliffs of Carrigeen, for it was spring-time and the season of high tides. Far away, beyond the angry breakers and beyond the wavering, shifting banks of gray foam which took their place, one could see through the misty haze of green ocean, dappled by an occasional sail or darkening over the sunken ledges into patches of leaden blue.

High upon the cliffside, where sea thrills and sand-grass rustled in the Atlantic breeze, two persons sat apart and tiny girl—sat hand in hand gazing steadily across the waters. Tied up in a red handkerchief at their side lay a fragrant bunch of bread and butter, from which fact it was easy to tell that they were sitting on a vantage. As a matter of fact, though your fashionable eighteenth century might be inclined to class them carefully with the latter.

Old Michael Flinnerty, the sheanachie, or "wise man," of the inland parish of Ballynagore, had taken his grandchild Noreen for a long promised trip to the seashore. They had come by the mail cart from Ballynagore across the country town of Kilmore, where the train, marvelous and wholly novel in Noreen's eyes, carried them with puff and rattle to the very borders of the ocean. And now here they were, sitting on Carrigeen cliffs above the mighty water, peacefully clasped in the arms of the old man, and gazing at the one to the other, symbolical of carelessness and thoughtless youth beside the waves of eternity.

Old Michael told his small charge a score of curious stories that afternoon—mostly stories of the coast were, and Michael had lived during many of his earlier years away from Ballynagore in the Carrigeen district. Moreover, he was, in his capacity of sheanachie, the possessor of legends galore, together with the power of relating them. Presently he leaned over the side of the boat, and plucking a bunch of dull green moss from one of the crevices held it toward the child.

"Do you know what that is, Noreen?" he asked.

Noreen shook her head, brushed her ringlets to imply the negative.

"Sure 'tis moss—Carrigeen moss—a human food at that. Did ye never hear tell of Carrigeen moss?"

Again the ringlets were shaken.

"Well, 'tis what the poor sheafolk ate when there's a famine. When the 'praties' give out an there's naught to buy bread with they climb up the rocks an gather Carrigeen moss. Then they boil it in a big pot, an it's not so bad at all—when ye can't get any other food."

Noreen looked at the slimy herb and wondered how it could possibly taste well under any circumstances. Others have felt similarly. Yet the poor coast people are driven in times of distress to support life on Carrigeen moss alone.

Old Michael eyed his small charge, and said: "Noreen, Carrigeen moss is a very good food, and it's not so bad at all—when ye can't get any other food."

The sheanachie, like some other notable poets, invariably began a narrative, by asking a question. Finding that Noreen was ignorant of the legend mentioned, he placed the tin cap of his shillee, took a long puff at the smoking tobacco and began:

"It was in the old, ancient days, before any marauders at all—let alone any Englishmen—set eyes or foot on Irish soil. Feargus the Swarder (or Feargus Dun in Gaelic) was king of all this coast from the mouth of the River Liffey to the bay of Banahugh. He was a fine young king, but his nature was sad, an instead of fightin his neighbors like a king ought, he liked better to stroll along these rocks of a moonlight night an play tunes on his harp."

"Well, one night he was strolling to the harp down on the strand below when the finest lady he ever saw came up out of the water an smiled at him. Her face was beautiful an white, pools glittered all over her, an she walked like a queen. But Feargus took particular notice of her hair. It was long an soft an wavy, but the color of it was green—entirely, for it was green—green as the sea on beyond or the moss I have in my fist, sure, King Feargus liked her all the better for it. He asked her name, but she said she was a young man. He played sweet music to her, an she told him how she was a sea king's daughter strayed on to the strand by accident. To make a long story short, King Feargus an the mermaid were married, an the fine old family of McNamara, which means children of the mermaid, descended from them. Very happily they lived too, the only trouble being that while Feargus grew old an gray haired the sea princess, lein a fairy, staid young for ever. At last poor King Feargus died an left his beautiful queen a widow. When she saw one of her strapping big sons safely on the throne, she called all the people together an told them that she must return to her father in the palaces under the sea. Then there rose such a wailing an lamenting among the people as would melt the heart of a stone."

"Every man, woman an child along the coast loved the sea princess, an it was bitter news to them when she said that she must go back to her own country. All the old people knew before with tears in their eyes, an the priests offered up prayers that she might not be taken from them. But, 'Men of the land, my heart beats for ye, but there is a voice within me which calls me back to the ocean. Every night I hear the summons of my father soundin through the mist of wind an waves. Believe me, I must go, but before I leave ye choose some keepsake or token which will remind ye of her that was your king's wife.' Then the people began cooing together, but for the life of them they could not think of anything to ask of her as a token."

"At last, sorrow, up spoke a neat young gossoon, an he says, 'Let us ask

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Mr. Gran's contract with Guilbert lasts only two weeks, after which she returns to the cheap prices of Paris. Calve's contract lasts six months, but during that time she sings only twice or three times a week, after which she

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